

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Did you know Franklin D. Roosevelt changed the traditional date of Thanksgiving from the last Thursday in November to the second to last Thursday to extend the Christmas shopping season during the Great Depression? Unfortunately, only about half the states went along with him. Ultimately, Congress stepped in and officially set the date as the fourth Thursday of November.

GAZEBOEXPRESS



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • NOVEMBER 2014

HAPPY HIGHLAND

Town named one of the happiest communities in the state

We have our happy on – and it shows!!

Highland has been named one of the happiest communities in Indiana by CreditDonkey, an online publication offering “financial tips and deals for college students, young adults, families and small business owners.”

With more than 500 cities and towns to choose from, CreditDonkey’s researchers ranked Highland third happiest in a state where residents pay less to live than the national average and have access to one of the country’s fastest growing economies. Not to diss our neighbors, but Highland ranked higher than nearby Munster, Crown Point, Hobart and Valparaiso, all of which made it into the Top 10. Only Goshen in eastern Indiana and Indianapolis neighbor, Carmel, ranked higher.

“We have an unbelievably great town, a town I’ve always been proud to call home. From our commitment to families, youth sports and public safety to economic development, community activities and neighbors helping neighbors, Highland has always been in a class by itself,” Council President Dan Vassar said. “It’s a community that is made stronger by the people who choose to live and have their businesses here.” 🐦

WHAT SETS US APART ...

Restaurants per capita 1 per 385 inhabitants	Residents leaving for work before 5 a.m. 5%
Odds of being the victim of a violent crime 1 in 951.2	Divorced residents 9.8% of males 14.1% of females
Average commute 24.6 minutes	Income spent on housing 19.1%
Median household income \$61,930	



2015 HIGHLAND BUDGET

Following a unanimous vote by the Town Council, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin has submitted Highland’s 2015 spending plan to the state for approval. The council plans to spend about \$16.6 million on town expenses and another \$3.4 million for sanitary costs next year.

The budget covers items that power the town – from gasoline for police cars and snow plows to electricity for street lights and traffic signals – as well as pay salaries and benefits for police, public works and clerical staff.

The town also paves neighborhood streets, buys road salt, repairs water main breaks and purchases replacement squad cars using funds collected from property taxes, user fees and a host of other sources.

RENEW BUSINESS LICENSE

Make an early resolution to renew your business license for 2015 - now before business gets busier. Every Highland business is required to get a business license and renew it annually.

Business license applications are available at www.highland.in.gov. Submit completed forms along with the appropriate fee to the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, IN 46322. Please make checks payable to the Town of Highland.

INFO: Call the Clerk-Treasurer’s office at (219) 838-1080.

COMMUNITY OUTPOURING CONTINUES FOR HISTORIC TOWN THEATRE

Community support for the renovation of the dormant movie theatre is accelerating in the weeks since the Town Council approved the plan.

Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said Highland Main Street has collected more than one hundred signatures from individuals willing to volunteering their time and expertise.

“We are asking people, who volunteer to work at the theatre, to commit four hours a month – and they are,” Petro said. “There has been a

groundswell of support for this project. It has been encouraging to see so many people willing to donate their time and efforts. This is truly a community effort to bring our theatre back.”

It’s not only town residents stepping forward.

“The Town Theatre is important to a great many people outside of Highland,” Petro said. “We have heard from people around the country who want to see the marquis lights back on and the Town back in business.” 🐦

HOW TO GET INVOLVED ...

Highland Main Street is looking for volunteers to work on the Town, as well as other initiatives to create an arts and theatre district.

INFO: If you’re interested in volunteering, contact Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro at cpetro@highland.in.gov or (219) 972-7598.

DECODING THE CODE ...

Open burning of leaves, twigs or other yard waste is prohibited within the corporate limits of Highland.

According to Title 12.15.050 of the Highland Municipal Code, "No person shall openly burn or ignite refuse, garbage or rubbish."

Building Commissioner Ken Mika, who also oversees code enforcement, said a number of residents have been cited.

"It's a safety and environmental hazard," Mika said. "It doesn't take much for leaf and twig fires to get out of hand. The law was created in 2000 to keep residents and structures safe."

INFO: highland.in.gov/MunicipalCode

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about the latest crime trends at this month's crime watch meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **NOV. 12**

WHERE: Highland Library

INFO: Call (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126



WARD 3

DAN VASSAR - president
dvassar@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-1945



WARD 4

DENNIS ADAMS
dadams@highland.in.gov
(219) 923-8475



WARD 5

KONNIE KUIPER
kkuiper@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-7820

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

The Gazebo Express is produced by:

The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041
www.theideafactory.us.com


Printed by CJ Printing
9445 Indianapolis Blvd. ®  94
Highland, IN 46322



PHOTO COURTESY OF HIGHLAND RESIDENT ELMO PARLOR

CONSTRUCTION MOVING SWIFTLY ON NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Work is progressing at a feverish pace to advance construction of the new police department before winter's chill slows progress.

A total of 11 contractors have been selected to work on the \$10 million project from a field that included 50 firms that bid on components of the job.

Town Councilman Dennis Adams, who is the liaison for the project, said the installation of footings will be followed by construction of the foundation walls. Several days of soaking rains delayed work as did the winter storm that pelted the region on Halloween. Still, Adams is hoping November temperatures will be a few degrees above normal and precipitation levels below those predicted.

"We knew starting the project when we did that weather would be a factor. We are determined to work around it and do all we can to keep the project on schedule," Adams said. "Once the foundation is complete, some work will be able to continue through the colder months."

So far, construction has caused few inconveniences for residents coming to Town Hall to conduct business.

"We have been working with the Post Office and our utility bill drop box provider to augment the existing boxes with extensions that will allow for easier curbside drops," he said. "We appreciate the feedback we've been getting along with the suggestions." 🐦

COUNCIL CONSIDERING RESIDENT CONCERNS BEFORE PASSING SNOW ROUTE REGULATIONS

Town leaders have more work to do before passing any sweeping change to parking regulations during and after measurable snowfalls.

Impassable streets that followed last year's spate of unrelenting winter storms prompted the Town Council, police, public works and code enforcement to take another look at the regulations.

The result: a suggested ordinance change that would make all streets snow routes, meaning all vehicles would be forbidden from on-street parking until streets are cleared of snow.

Concern for residents, especially those without driveways and others who said the law change would be a hardship, is encouraging another look.

Council President Dan Vassar said snow presents unique challenges.

"We need to pull together, especially during winters like we had last year," Vassar said.

"We had streets last year where a town pick-up truck outfitted with a plow couldn't even make it down the street because there were so many cars in the way – and that was more than 24 hours after the snow stopped. Everyone needs to be mindful when it takes two passes – instead of one – to get the job done," Vassar said.

"We have to make the streets passable in the event there are fires or a medical emergency and an ambulance needs to get to a house," he said.

"Think how terrible anyone of us would feel if a house burned or someone died because rescue personnel couldn't get there in time and there was something we could have done to prevent it." 🐦

Highland's 39th annual ... PUMPKIN PLOD

The air is guaranteed to be frosty and the excitement palpable when thousands from around the region gather for the 2014 running/walking of the Pumpkin Plod.

As synonymous for many as turkey and stuffing, the race has become a holiday classic for hundreds of families and friends, who begin Thanksgiving morning with a 3-mile walk or 6-mile run through the streets of Highland and still make it home before the first kickoff.

This year, which marks the 39th running of the race that awards pumpkin pies to the top finishers, the town is welcoming the area's premier running club, the Calumet Region Striders. Members receive a \$1 discount.

"This event has been popular since the first year it was run," Recreation Director Dave Byers said. "If you don't already have plans for Thanksgiving morning, you still have a few weeks to get in shape for the walking or running portions of the race. It is such a good time. See you there!" 🍁



ABOUT THE RACE

Join your friends and neighbors for this holiday tradition.

WHEN: 9 a.m. **NOV. 27**

WHERE: Race begins at Kennedy Avenue and Jewett Street and ends at Lincoln Community Center.

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or visit www.highlandparks.org.

RUNNER REGISTRATION

- **ADVANCE:** Register by 5 p.m. **NOV. 24:** \$20 with shirt, \$15 without shirt
- **RACE DAY:** \$25 with shirt, \$20 without shirt
- \$1 off for pre-registered Cal-Strider runners

WALKER REGISTRATION

- **ADVANCE:** Register by 5 p.m. **NOV. 24:** \$15 with shirt, \$5 without shirt
- **RACE DAY:** \$20 with shirt, \$10 without shirt

SHOW HOLIDAY SPIRIT

If you've ever thought your front evergreens could be made more festive with bows and tinsel or your business facade could better reflect the glow of the season with warm white lights, Highland Main Street members are asking you to give it a try.

"We want to put Highland on the map as the best decorated community in the region," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. "To help us do that, we are asking businesses and residents to go all out with decorations for the 2014 holiday season."

LEAF COLLECTION ONLY

It's that time of year when Public Works switches from branch pickup to leaf collection. Please refrain from trimming your trees unless absolutely necessary.

There will be no branch collection in December, January or February. Residents can bring branches and other yard waste to the Public Works Facility located at 8001 Kennedy Avenue and dump them at no charge.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.

SUPPORT OPERATION SOS

Operation SOS - Support Our Service members - needs your donations of items and cash to send cheer boxes to service members who will be overseas during the holidays.

Donated items may be dropped off through Nov. 18 at Town Hall, Lincoln Community Center and Miles Bookstore on Jewett. A packing party will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 23 at Wicker Park Social Center. Anyone wishing to contribute cash to help pay for shipping should make a check payable to: Operation SOS, P.O. Box 9308, Highland, IN 46322.

INFO: For more details, please call Colleen Aguirre at (219) 923-5799.

HIGHLAND STUDENTS' ART ON DISPLAY THROUGHOUT DOWNTOWN

Take a stroll downtown to visit any one of more than three dozen businesses hosting the 2014 Downtown Autumn Art Gallery.

A total of 40 individual artworks are on display through November at locations along Highway, Jewett and Kennedy avenues. Organized by Joanna Smith, a member of Highland Main

Street and completed under the direction of Lauren Evers, each one of the pieces was created by a student at Highland Christian School.

"We have many residents who tell us how much they enjoy the art," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. "These are beautiful pieces that students worked hard to create for us."

The seasonal galleries are the brainchild of Highland Main Street members, who want to give Highland residents another reason to visit downtown businesses.

"The arts add another dimension to our community," she said. "It is wonderful to see how people are responding to this program." 🍁

VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY

Join our veterans and the Daughters of the American Revolution as they salute those who have served our country.

WHEN: 11 a.m. Tuesday, **NOV. 11**

WHERE: Highway of Flags

INFO: Call Sue Yamtich at (219) 614-3499.

COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

Celebrate the season with joyful tunes at the Highland Community Band's fall performance. There is no cost to attend. The group will collect paper products and cleaning supplies for the Highland Emergency Fund.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, **NOV. 13**

WHERE: Monbeck Auditorium at Highland High
INTERESTED IN JOINING? Please email Director Greg Jasek at maestroflute@att.net.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Let the chefs from St. James the Less cook spaghetti and all the fixins' – bread, salad and dessert – for you and your family.

WHEN: 6 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, **NOV. 22**

WHERE: St. James the Less parish hall, 9640 Kennedy Ave.

COST: \$8 adults and \$5 children.

INFO: (219) 924-4220.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Do you enjoy shopping for comic books, sports cards, autographs and other rare items? Roger Parker from P & P Collectibles will promote the card show in conjunction with the Community Garage Sale. Register to sell your items now!

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **NOV. 22**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: \$26.75 for 10' X 10' space and \$42.80 for approximate 23' X 6' wall space.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

FALL CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW

Get a start on your holiday shopping at the two-day winter craft show. Choose from candles, jewelry, handbags, home decor, handmade items, gourmet dips and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, **NOV. 29** and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, **NOV. 30**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: \$53.50 per 10' x 10' interior space or \$85.60 per 23' X 6' wall space.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

MADRIGAL FEASTE

Highland Choral Boosters is hosting a Madrigal dinner and entertainment with all the pomp and circumstance of a royal feast.

WHEN: 6 p.m. Saturday, **DEC. 6** and

4:30 p.m. Sunday, **DEC. 7**

TICKETS: \$24 per person

INFO: Tickets must be purchased by Nov. 26 from choir or theatre members or by calling (219) 922-5610.

SANTA'S MARCH

Parade with Santa through downtown Highland ending at the Main Square Park Gazebo. Hot chocolate will be served. Parade applications are at Town Hall and Lincoln Center.

WHEN: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29

WHERE: Main Square Park

TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

Join us for the lighting of Main Square Park for the holiday season. Santa will have treat bags for good boys and girls. Food and beverage concessions will be available.

WHEN: 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29

WHERE: Main Square Park

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG

Celebrate the holidays with the Highland Main Street sing-a-long featuring some of the season's top tunes from Jingle Bells to Here Comes Santa Claus! All are invited to participate, including church members, school children and clubs. Please RSVP – (219) 972-7598 or bridgetdeyoung@yahoo.com – so Highland Main Street can anticipate the number of groups and individuals who will be participating.

WHEN: 5:15 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29

WHERE: Main Square Park

PHONE CALLS FROM SANTA

Santa will call your child if you register at Lincoln Center by Dec. 2. Santa will talk to good little girls and boys about their Christmas wishes. Highland residents only.

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 4 and 5

HOME DECORATING CONTEST

Decorate your home for the holidays and you could be eligible for cash prizes. Enter our contest and let the Park Board be the judge of the best decorated houses. Entry forms are available at Lincoln Center.

Highland residences only.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Dec. 7

JUDGING OF HOMES:

6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 11

AWARDS:

Dec. 13 at Lincoln Center

INFO: (219) 838-0114

or highlandparks.org.

PRIZES: Each winner will receive a gift card – \$75 for First Place, \$50 for Second Place, \$25 for Best New Entry, Best Use of a Theme, Best Use of One Color, Third Place and Honorable Mention.



Holiday Happenings